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10/660,959

09/12/2003

Jeffrey George

60,518-165

6358

27305

7590

03/20/2007

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EXAMINER

KARKHANIS, AASHISH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
|--|-----------|---------------|
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3 MONTHS

03/20/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/660,959 | Applicant(s) GEORGE ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Aashish Karkhanis | Art Unit 3714 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-105 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-105 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1 – 20, 31 – 72 and 80 – 105 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sarno (U.S. Patent 6,024,641).

Regarding Claim 1, Sarno discloses a remote system for use with a gaming system having at least one gaming machine having a hopper for issuing credits to a player (col. 7, lins. 27 – 32; where an electronic hopper is used to provide credits from a credit card or other electronic transaction), a host computer coupled to the at least one gaming machine by a network, the host computer including a database for maintaining hopper fill information relating to the at least one gaming device the remote system including a remote device for receiving data, and a remote network interface coupled to the remote device for exchanging data between the host computer and the remote device, the data including hopper fill information to process a credit fill of the hopper (col. 4, lins. 5 – 10; where a gaming device has a network connection and a hypertext logon system for tracking player information including credit information) and including an alert sent to the remote device indicating the hopper on one of the gaming machines needs to be restocked and an acknowledgement sent to the host computer from the remote device in response to input from the user (col. 8, lins. 44 – 53; where a player

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receives a response from a host computer which adds more credits to an electronic credit hopper after a player requests to add credits to an electronic credit hopper), where the remote device is a mobile computer which may be carried by a user (col. 3, lin. 47; where a personal digital assistant is a mobile computer that may be carried by a user).

Regarding Claim 53, Sarno discloses a method for processing a hopper fill for use with a gaming system having at least one gaming machine having a hopper for issuing credits to a player including sending a selectable form to a remote device, selecting data from the form, by a user, on the remote device, the data including hopper fill information to process a credit fill of the hopper (col. 4, lins. 5 – 10; where a gaming device has a selectable form for providing an electronic hopper with credits from a player account).

Regarding Claims 2 – 5 and 54 – 57, Sarno discloses a remote system and method, wherein the remote device is coupled to the remote network interface by a wireless connection that uses an IEEE 802.11 standard including IEEE 802.11b or IEEE 802.11g (col. 4, lins. 44 – 47; where an IEEE 802.11 standard and its sub-standards are all specific and inherent embodiments of generic wireless connection methods).

Regarding Claims 6 – 7 and 58, Sarno discloses a method and remote device having a processor (col. 4, lin. 11) and a web client for interaction with a user for acquiring input from the user and formatting and presenting data to the user (col. 6, lins. 21 – 22).

Regarding Claims 8 – 9 and 59 – 60, Sarno discloses a method and remote system with the data including a hopper fill form, the remote network interface for sending the hopper fill form to the remote device (col. 4, lins. 5 – 10; where a gaming device has a network connection and a hypertext logon system for tracking player information including credit information), the hopper fill form having a hopper fill field selectable by a user, the remote device for sending the hopper fill information to the remote network interface located on a host computer (col. 5, lins. 41 – 44).

Regarding Claims 10 – 12 and 61 – 63, Sarno discloses a method and remote device having a processor (col. 4, lin. 11) and a web client for interaction with a user, the hopper fill form being accessible through the web client, with the hopper fill form being a web page (col. 6, lins. 21 – 22; where an electronic hopper may be filled using accredit card over a web page), and the hopper fill form being fillable with the jackpot information by a user, the remote device for sending the jackpot information to the remote network interface (col. 8, lins. 1 – 5).

Regarding Claims 13 – 15 and 64 – 70, Sarno discloses a method and remote system with the hopper fill information including a hopper id, the remote network interface for determining if the hopper id is valid (col. 7, lins. 18 – 20; where a hopper is associated with a specific player and a hopper id includes verification of player id), the hopper fill form including a hopper entry button for selecting by the user and submitting the hopper id entered manually (fig. 4, elem. 51), the remote device sending a notification that the hopper entry button is selected, the remote network interface for determining if the hopper id is valid upon receiving the notification (col. 7, lins. 27 – 51).

Regarding Claims 16 – 18, Sarno discloses a method and remote device having a bar code reader for reading a barcode on the hopper and determining the hopper fill information, the remote network interface for receiving the hopper fill information from the bar code reader and retrieving hopper details from the host computer as a function of the hopper id (col. 7, lins. 25 – 31; where a bar coded card is a specific embodiment of many types of player identification cards well known and established in the art), the remote network interface for instructing the remote display to display an error message if the hopper id is not valid (col. 7, lins. 33 – 43)

Regarding Claims 19 – 20 and 71 – 72, Sarno discloses a method and hopper fill form including a hopper fill button for selecting by the user, the remote device sending a notification that the hopper fill button is selected, the remote network interface for storing the notification to the host computer (col. 7, lins. 18 – 27), the host computer for updating the data in the database, and a database for maintaining the hopper fill information, the remote network interface coupled to the database for retrieving and storing data therein (col. 7, lins. 44 – 51).

Regarding Claims 80 – 83, Sarno discloses a method and remote device having a processor (col. 4, lin. 11) and a web client for interaction with a user, the remote network interface for formatting the responsive data into a hyper text mark-up language response for display by the web client (col. 4, lin. 8) including a plurality of servlets for providing functionality to the user (col. 7, lins. 5 – 16; where different games, areas, and functions of a web site may be implemented as servlets served to a client computer), a login layer for identifying the user (col. 5, lin. 34), and a menu layer for allowing the user

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to navigate to and access the servlets (col. 7, lins. 6 – 9), and a user having an assigned type, the menu layer for allowing accessing to servlets and restricting access to servlets as a function of the assigned type (col. 5, lins. 41 – 44; where a user account is of a valid or invalid type, and access to game system servets is restricted based on validity of an account).

Regarding Claims 31 – 50 and 84 – 103, Sarno discloses a method and hopper fill information including a hopper fill identifier, the remote interface for retrieving fill detail from the host computer as a function of the hopper fill identifier (col. 7, lins. 18 – 20; where a hopper is associated with a specific player and a hopper id includes verification of player id), the fill detail including a gaming machine id, a gaming machine location, the gaming machine game, the gaming machine denomination, a gaming date, a gaming shift, a credit value and a credit status including a request status, acknowledge status, process status, and a paid status, and hopper fill field including a hopper fill identifier and a credit status (col. 7, lins 20 – 27; col. 8, lins. 28 – 54).

Regarding Claims 51 – 52 and 104 – 105, Sarno discloses a method and remote device sending a notification that the credit status is selected, the remote network interface for advancing the credit status via the host computer as a function of the prior credit status, the remote network interface sending the advanced credit status to the remote device and displaying the advanced credit status (col. 8, lins. 35 – 54).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 21 – 30 and 73 – 79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sarno in view of Ramakrishnan (Database Management Systems. 1998, McGraw Hill. ISBN 0-07-050775-9).

Regarding Claims 21 – 25 and 73 – 78, Sarno discloses a remote system for storing and retrieving data and a third object is coupled to the remote network interface for receiving queries from the interface, retrieving, formatting, and returning responsive data from the database to the remote device (col. 3, lins. 65 – 67; where an interface between storage and a network is provided to make a host computer's data accessible to clients). Sarno does not disclose a specific type of data storage including a database consisting of tables with first data objects coupled to the database tables or a second data objects for assembling first data objects. However, Ramakrishnan teaches a database for storing data in database tables (p. 21, para. 2) with a plurality of first data objects coupled to the database tables for retrieving and storing data in the database tables (p. 22, para. 2; where relations such as data types are formed within tables), at least one second data object coupled to the first data objects for assembling multiple first data objects into a third data object (p. 21, para. 2; where a second object is a database collecting all tables of a database). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the generic network based storage device as disclosed by Sarno with the specific table and

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database related storage system as taught by Ramakrishnan in order to provide a more organized and efficient method of accessing and manipulating data.

Regarding Claims 26 – 30 and 79, Sarno discloses a method and remote device having a processor (col. 4, lin. 11) and a web client for interaction with a user, the remote network interface for formatting the responsive data into a hyper text mark-up language response for display by the web client (col. 4, lin. 8) including a plurality of servlets for providing functionality to the user (col. 7, lins. 5 – 16; where different games, areas, and functions of a web site may be implemented as servlets served to a client computer), a login layer for identifying the user (col. 5, lin. 34), and a menu layer for allowing the user to navigate to and access the servlets (col. 7, lins. 6 – 9), and a user having an assigned type, the menu layer for allowing accessing to servlets and restricting access to servlets as a function of the assigned type (col. 5, lins. 41 – 44; where a user account is of a valid or invalid type, and access to game system servlets is restricted based on validity of an account).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant maintains that the claimed invention distinguishes over the prior art because Sarno does not disclose a mobile computer that may be used as a remote device. The examiner respectfully disagrees. As discussed above, Sarno discusses the use of a personal digital assistant as a remote device, which is a handheld mobile computer as is well known and established in the art of mobile computing devices. Applicant also maintains that the claimed invention distinguishes over the prior art

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because Sarno does not disclose a system for remotely restocking a hopper. However, Sarno discloses that a player may restock an electronic hopper with additional credits throughout the play of a game.

For the reasons given above, claims 1 – 105 stand rejected.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent 5,984,786: Game network with relational database.

U.S. Patent: 4,764,666: Game network cards.

U.S. Patent 5,797,796: Database error checking.

U.S. Patent 5,586,937: Gaming System with remote terminals.

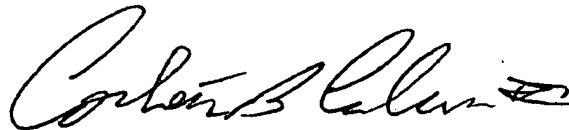
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aashish Karkhanis whose telephone number is (571) 272-2774. The examiner can normally be reached on 0800-1630 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ARK

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corbett B. Coburn", with a stylized flourish at the end.

**CORBETT B. COBURN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**